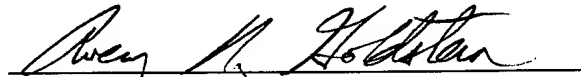


**REMARKS**

Applicant notes with appreciation the potential allowability of claims 22-29. Currently, claims 1-21 and 33-36 that are also pending in the application stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Tour et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0190759). In response to this rejection, Applicant submits that Tour et al. is in fact not prior art to the pending application. Tour et al. claims a priority date of March 2, 2001 with the application itself being filed on March 4, 2002. The pending application claims a priority date of June 6, 2000 and a filing date of June 5, 2001. As such, Applicant submits that Tour et al. fails to satisfy the requirements of a prior art reference consistent with 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and as such withdrawal of the rejection as to pending claims 1-21 and 33-36 is respectfully requested.

With the withdrawal of the rejection as to claims 1-21 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Applicant submits that all of the claims are in allowable form and directed to patentable subject matter. Advancing this application to allowance is therefore requested. Should the Examiner find any remaining issues relevant to the allowability of the pending claims, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney in charge of this application.

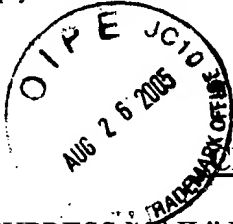
Respectfully submitted,



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Janice R. Kuehn  
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